CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 20 - The Church Is Stirred from Within (AD 1200-1517)

1. *Struggle and Change*
    a. *The Holy Roman Empire was fading out, and a spirit of nationalism was arising in the various sections of Europe and the political structure was chaotic*
    b. *The Crusades stimulated the economic and intellectual life of the West. There came into existence groups of people who began to hold and spread ideas which were in conflict with the doctrine and government of the Church.*
2. *The Albigenses*
    a. *During the Crusades, Manichean ideas came back into Western Europe, these ideas sprouted abundantly, especially in southern France. There the town of Albi became a hotbed of these ideas, and the people there who held these ideas came to be called Albigenses*
    b. *Dualists - they believed that there is a good and an evil god*
3. *The Waldenses*
    a. *Followers of Peter Waldo, a rich merchant of Lyons who believed that the Bible and especially the New Testament should be the only rule of faith and life for the Christians; learned large portions of the New Testament by heart; dressed in simple woolen garments and barefooted, they went about preaching; did not believe in purgatory or in prayers and masses for the dead*
4. *The Church Resorts to Persecution*
    a. *grew so numerous that in the areas in which they lived they became a real threat to the very existence of the Roman Catholic Church; the Dominican and Franciscan Orders of Preaching Friars were organized to oppose them*
    b. *They were declared heretics and became target of the Medieval Inquisition (led by the Dominicans)*
    c. *Most of them were burned at the stake;*
    d. *The Waldenses found a place of refuge in the high valleys of the Alps. They still live there today*
5. *John Wycliffe*
    a. *Born in England in 1520; studied at the University of Oxford, and became professor; in 1376 he began to criticize the clergy; "a radical reform was necessary as the wealth and political power had so corrupted the Church"; should return to the poverty and simplicity of apostolic times and called the popes Antichrists*
    b. *declared that the Bible rather than the Church should be the only rule of faith; started to translate the Bible from Latin and Greek to English*
    c. *Wycliffe's followers carried his teachings and the newly translated Bible into many parts of England; The teachings of Wycliffe continued to be spread over England after his death, not only by means of his writings, but also by the preaching of his disciples, who came to be known as Lollards ("Mumblers")*
6. *John Huss*
    a. *born around 1569, trained for the priesthood; became dean of the theological faculty at the University of Prague, in the capital of Bohemia, and later was made head*
    b. *Huss taught many ideas which later became the main teachings of the Reformers*
    c. *Died on the stake by fire*
7. *Three General Church Councils*
    a. *from 1409 to 1449 three general church councils were held: in Pisa in the year 1409, in Constance from 1414 to 1418, and in Basel from 1431 to 1449. The threefold purpose of these councils was (1) to heal the Great Schism, (2) to bring about reforms in the Church, and (3) to suppress heresy*
    b. *Council of Pisa – none achieved; Constance appointed Martin V and ended the Great Schism but also exhumed Wycliffe's body to be burned; Basel reached an agreement with the Hussites, and attempted to reconcile the Eastern Church*
8. *The Renaissance*
    a. *Trade and commerce following the Crusades gave rise to many towns in Europe, developing a class of people who were interested in learning and culture; Capitalists who had great wealth sponsored the men of learning, who in turn revived many of the ancient documents; Greek language became a new subject of interest; the writing of elegant Latin was an attainment widely sought; the publication of ancient writings; In Italy the men of the early Renaissance were flagrantly irreligious and immoral to revolt against the asceticism of medieval times to explore man's new freedom from restraint and from ignorance; Men began to show particular concern for New Testament Greek and for Hebrew and the works of the early Church Fathers were published and came out in the new form - the printed book*
    b. *during this period of the Renaissance popes that the Vatican was built in Rome*
9. *The Brethren of the Common Life*
    a. *Around 1550 in the Netherlands and Germany in attempt to reform the Church known as the Brethren of the Common Life founded by Gerhard Groote*
    b. *The Brethren of the Common Life were strong believers in Christian education. They hoped to bring about reform in the Church by means of education. From their schools came many men who did much to promote learning and piety. Luther attended one of their schools in Magdeburg for one year. Three other pupils of the Brethren of the Common Life who deserve special mention are John of Wessel, Erasmus, and Thomas a Kempis*
10. *The Threshold of the Reformation*
    a. *The factors mentioned fed the fire for the Reformation*